

VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
P.O. BOX 31
80 LORILLARD ROAD
TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK 10987

Houston A. Stebbins
Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

July 20, 2009

I welcome Gary Pompan as a newly elected Trustee and Chris Hansen as a re-elected Trustee to the Board. The Board members' diverse skills and talents hold the promise of finding effective solutions to the challenges that lay ahead – including monitoring Village expenditures against budget in a weak economic climate, achieving operating cost savings, and managing our infrastructure projects and debt financing requirements.

Tuxedo Reserve Update

Deputy Mayor Hays reported that the Town Board is drafting a SEQRA resolution on the special permit for Tuxedo Reserve. If you want a copy of the draft resolution, please contact Deputy Mayor Hays; and if you have an opinion about what should be included this resolution, please send your comments to the Town Board.

New Ridge Line & Precipice Law

The Board voted to approve a new Ridge Line & Precipice Overlay District law that seeks to preserve the environment, the public welfare, and the visual assets of Tuxedo Park. The new law eliminates the prohibition in the Village Code for building on a ridge line or at the edge of a precipice. The new law uses a new Official Zoning Map for the Village of Tuxedo Park, which separately depicts our Village-wide Four-Acre Zoning District, our Gateway Overlay District and our Ridgeline & Precipice Overlay District. Any building in an Overlay District, as determined by the new Official Zoning Map, requires the reviewing Board to apply additional criteria before a building permit is issued. The Board expressed its gratitude to the Precipice & Ridge Line Advisory Committee - Chiu yin Hempel, Chair, Serene Swirbul, Will Russell, Susan Boyle, and Ann Zgonena – for its well-reasoned recommendations and careful handling of the complex issues. Thank you all again for your excellent work.

New Zoning Law

The Board also approved a new zoning law that clarifies our existing Zoning Code regarding Non-Conforming Uses, Non Complying Structures, and Substandard Lots. The BZA expended considerable effort and made thoughtful Board recommendations for our new Zoning Law. Many thanks are owed to Gary Glynn, Chair, John Whitney, Mary Darby, Maureen Coen and Rob McQuilken. Thank you all for your hard work and a job well done.

Cost Savings Obtained from a New General Liability Insurance Policy; Health Care is Next

After reviewing a detailed report prepared by our insurance broker, the Board selected Argonaut/Trident for providing the Village's general liability insurance for fiscal year 2010, based on a \$7,000 (or about 10%) reduction in premium cost compared to Selective Insurance, who has insured the Village for many years. Given this result, Trustee Hansen has agreed to obtain comparable, competitive quotes for the Village's health care insurance currently obtained from the New York State Health Insurance Plan (NYSHIP). It appears that cost savings should be available from the \$400,000 per annum premium that the Village currently pays NYSHIP. While our Police and DPW unions must agree to any new health care insurance plan, other communities have successfully changed plans and achieved significant savings.

New Terms for Trustee Health Insurance

A majority of the Board voted to standardize the terms under which Village Health Care Insurance is offered to all former and current Trustees, primarily by having all participants pay the full cost of their insurance premiums. This action should produce meaningful cost savings by replacing a plan approved many years ago that required the Village to pay a substantial portion of these insurance premiums for current Trustees requesting coverage.

O&R Street Lights Savings

In response to VIAC's detailed survey of Village street lights, O&R has offered a \$7,000 credit for overcharges over the past year and has cut our monthly flat rate charges almost in half since only about 50% of our streets are in operation compared to the number O&R was using. I want to thank Trustee Worthy and all the VIAC members - Eric Honor, Chair, Michele Lindsay, Alan Heywood, Peter Humphrey and Ann Zgonena - who completed this Village street light inventory that persuaded O&R to correct its billings and issue the Village a credit.

National Flood Insurance Program

The Board voted to approve the FEMA and NYSDEC Flood Insurance Program for communities having flood plains based on the inundation area of a one hundred year storm. New building requirements now apply in the Village's flood plain areas. Several Village and a few privately-owned properties are directly affected, primarily at the south end of the Park. Please contact John Ledwith to determine if your property is located in these flood plain areas. This program, as advised by FEMA, should help all residents to obtain economical flood insurance whether or not their properties are inside a flood plain.

Wee Wah Beach Club Anniversary

The Village congratulates the Wee Wah Beach Club (WWBC) on its 75th Anniversary, which was celebrated on Saturday, July 18, 2009 at the Wee Wah Beach. The WWBC continues to thrive based on the spirit of many generous volunteers and remains dedicated to offering good times to its members in a beautiful setting. If you would like to join the WWBC, please call Mary Graetzer at 351-4142.

Race Track

A walking trail has been cut into the meadow at the Race Track for all residents to use. Please stay on the path, since the fields hold unique plants as well as many ticks and more than a few snakes that have been (so far) determined to be harmless. Longer term, the plan is to start labeling the many unusual species of trees, flowers, and habitats in the Race Track to increase the awareness of its extraordinary natural diversity preserved over the years.

Sewer Plant Gates Are Now Locked

Due to concerns about non-DPW vehicles going into and out of the Village sewer plant area, the decision was made to lock these gates to maintain plant safety and to avoid unauthorized entry into the Park.

Residents – Please Trim Your Tree Branches & Bushes Overhanging Village Roads

Now is a good time for property owners to trim bushes and tree branches under seventeen feet high coming from your property and overhanging Village roads, particularly at intersections. It is a public safety matter to maintain visibility and passage on our Village roads for our Fire, EMS, and DPW vehicles that serve the community all year long. Your cooperation is needed. Otherwise, the Village may be forced to do this work and charge property owners.

Dumping and Littering

Dumping of lawn debris within the Park as well as careless littering along our roads is on the rise. Chapter 58 of our Village Code prohibits these actions. As a public service and an important benefit to the community, please report any dumping or littering in the Village to the police so that enforcement action can be taken.

Tuxedo Lake – No Swimming or Wading

Children and adults are not allowed to swim or wade in Tuxedo Lake, including at The Tuxedo Club Boat House, or the Village Boat Club or anywhere else. This lake is a NYS regulated reservoir; no exceptions will be made.

Summer Hours for the Village Office

A new schedule of summer hours is in effect for the Village Office -- from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Monday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm; Friday 9 am to 12 noon.

Thank you for your interest in Village government. I look forward to speaking with you about how to make Tuxedo Park a better community for all residents.

Sincerely yours,



Houston Stebbins